

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed March 12, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 22-31 have been added. Claims 1-31 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, and 24 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,810,680 (Lobb) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,369 (Rudow).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention relates to method for transmitting sports data between a mobile terminal and a sports database in a sports server. The sports server includes a processor for managing the sports data to be saved and for managing queries of the data base. The mobile terminal accesses the sports server through a public mobile communication network. This allows sports data to be input to the sports server from all areas covered by the public mobile communications network. The data inputted to the mobile terminal is directly transmitted to the sports server via the public communication network and recorded in the sport database. Output devices are also connected to the sports server.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Lobb nor Rudow teach or suggest that data input to the mobile terminal can be sent directly to a sports database in a sports server via a public mobile communication system as the data is being input into the mobile terminal, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 12.

Lobb discloses a mobile unit for recording data, i.e., golf scores, on the mobile unit during the play of a game. After the game is complete, the mobile unit of Lobb is then

connected to a computer station 150 located off the field or course for uploading and downloading the golf scores already recorded on the mobile unit. Since Lobb only records the data on the mobile unit during the playing of the game, Lobb fails to teach that the sports data may be loaded directly from the mobile unit to the remote computer as it is being input. Accordingly, Lobb fails to teach or suggest the limitation “directly transmitting the inputted sport data from the mobile terminal to the sport server via the communication connection established in said step (a) as the sports data is input by the user in said step (c)”, as recited in independent claim 1, or the limitation “an input device arranged for receiving an input of sports data from a user and directly transmitting the sports data input by a user to said sport server via said public mobile communications network as said sports data is input to said input device”, recited in independent claim 12.

Rudow fails to teach what Lobb lacks. Rudow discloses a golf cart yardage and information system which includes a base station 10, a GPS receiver 11, and a transceiver 12. The GPS receiver determines the position of the golf cart and transmits the location to the base station. The base station also includes a database including data on the locations of various positions on the golf course such as tees and pins (holes) and obstructions such as sand traps and bunkers. The GPS receiver and the database of the base station allows the golfer to determine a distance from his present location determined by the GPS receiver to objects on the golf course such as the hole currently being played.

The transceiver 12 in Rudow allows communication between the course manager and a specific golfer or all golfers. Rudow does not specifically state that golf scores are transmitted from the cart to the base station. Furthermore, the communication between the base station 10 and the carts is not via a public mobile communication system. Rather it is

specifically designed to be a communication between the base station and only the carts of the golf course. The sports server and sports database of Rudow are connected to the mobile input terminals via a private communication system. Accordingly, the system of Rudow is limited to inputting data from locations covered by the private communications network. That is, it is limited to inputting scores from the golf course which is serviced by the specific communication system used by the golf course.

In contrast to Rudow, the present invention allows sports data to be input by a user via a public mobile communication system from many locations for many different sporting events using many different types of input devices. The particular sports venue, such as a golf course, need not have a local data and communications system to process sports data regarding that particular sports venue. Even if the communication system between the mobile terminals and base station of Rudow were combined with the system disclosed by Lobb, this combination still fails to teach or suggest the limitation “directly transmitting the inputted sport data from the mobile terminal to the sport server via the communication connection established in said step (a) as the sports data is input by the user in said step (c)”, as recited in independent claim 1, or the limitation “an input device arranged for receiving an input of sports data from a user and directly transmitting the sports data input by a user to said sport server via said public mobile communications network as said sports data is input to said input device”, recited in independent claim 12.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 12 are allowable over Lobb in view of Rudow. Dependent claims 2-11 and 13-23 being dependent on independent claims 1 and 12, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 12.

Moreover, Rudow also fails to teach or suggest that the scores in the database are to be accessed by output devices owned by subscribers, as recited in claims 3, 4, 13 and 21. Rather, Rudow discloses a golf course management tool which is used to provide statistics to the manager of the golf course. Rudow does not teach or suggest that the results of the matches are to be accessed by subscribers. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 4, 13, and 21 are allowable for these additional reasons.

Rudow and Lobb also fail to teach or suggest the connection of the sports server to the output devices owned by subscribers to the sports server as contemplated by the present invention. Claims 22 and 23 recite that the output devices have access to the raw data input to the sports server and can query the data in the sports data. Lobb allows access to the database so that users can review their own history. However, Lobb does not contemplate that the database may be accessed by subscribers to determine the results of various matches and games. Accordingly, claims 22 and 23 are allowable for these additional reasons.

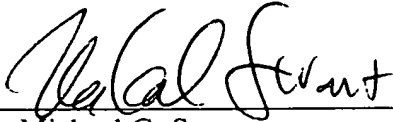
New claims 24-31 are drawn to a mobile terminal for inputting sports data to a sports server connected to a communication network. Support for these claims is found in the original specification at page 9, lines 17-21 and page 12, lines 1-8 and in Figs. 1, 3, 4a, and 4b. New independent claim 24 is similar in many aspects to independent claim 1. Independent claim 24 recites means for setting the mobile terminal in a sports data input mode and means for directly transmitting data input from said mobile terminal to the sports server using the public mobile communications network as the sports data is input by the user. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 24 is allowable over Lobb in view of Rudow.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment for the addition of 10 new claims. If any additional fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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